What is claimed is:

1.

A method of entering data on a touch screen display, the method comprising:

invoking a computer program in which user input is sought;

invoking an input area, including a keyboard incapable of
user termination and having a plurality of keys on the
display; and

selecting keys on the keyboard to provide the desired input.

2.

The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 1 wherein the input area is created by an executable code.

3.

The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 2 wherein the executable code is compiled visual basic code.

4.

The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 1 wherein the computer program invokes the input area.

5.

The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 4 wherein the computer program accesses a dynamic link library file in order to invoke the input area.

6.

The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 5 wherein the dynamic link library file is a C++ program.

7.

The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 1 wherein the computer program is executing on a personal computer.

41

8.

The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 1 wherein the computer program is executing on a pen-based computer.

9.

The method of entering data on a touch screen display of claim 1 wherein the computer program is executing on a computer with a touch-screen display.

10.

A computer readable medium containing executable instructions, which when executed in a processing system causes the system to perform the steps for creating an on-screen keyboard, the keyboard comprising:

an input area on a display incapable of user termination, the
    input area being on a display of receiving touch-screen
    input, said input area including a pictorial
    representation of a keyboard.

11.

The computer readable medium of claim 10 wherein the pictorial representation is an image map.

12.

The computer readable medium of claim 10 wherein the input area has no task bar.

13.

The computer readable medium of claim 10 wherein the input area has no minimize button.

14.

The computer readable medium of claim 10 wherein the input area has no maximize button.

15.

A medium through which user input may be obtained, the medium comprising:

executable instructions, which when executed in a processing
    system causes the system to perform the steps creating
    an input area incapable of user termination, the input

42

area being on a display capable of receiving touch-
screen input, the immutable input area containing a
plurality of keys; and
a dynamic link library through which external programming may
selectively access the executable instructions and
thereby create the immutable input area.

16.

The computer medium of claim 15 wherein the input area
contains a keyboard.

17.

The computer medium of claim 15 wherein the processing
system is a 32 bit processing system.

18.

A computer system including a display capable of
accepting touch-screen input comprising:
a processing system;
executable instructions which when executed in the processing
system cause the processing system to generate an input
area on the display, the input area being incapable of
user termination;
a dynamic link library which links a computer program to the
executable instructions for use on the processing
system.

19.

The computer system of claim 18 wherein the input area
contains a keyboard.

20.

The computer system of claim 18 wherein the processing
system is a 32-bit processing system.

21.

A method of ensuring a reliable computer input area is
accessible to a user, the method comprising:
accessing a computer including a touch-screen display;
executing a computer program in which user input is sought;

43

invoking a computer-generated input area of unalterable size
and shape on the display; and

accepting input from a user based on the position selected by
the user in the input area on the display.

22.

The method of claim 21 wherein the computer is a pen-based computer.

23.

The method of claim 21 wherein the input area includes a keyboard.

24.

The method of claim 21 wherein invoking of the input area is performed through a dynamic link library.